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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/736,441	12/15/2003	James Gleason JR.	VOI0283.US	3457

7590 06/01/2005

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EXAMINER

FORTUNA, JOSE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1731

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/736,441

Applicant(s)

GLEASON, JAMES

Examiner

José A. Fortuna

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/15/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Persson et al., US Patent No. 6,436,241.

Persson et al. teach a roll seal strip having a wear indicator, see abstract. Persson et al. teach also the use of said strips as part of a suction box of a papermaking machine, column 1, lines 10-20. Figure 1 shows the holder (3) to hold the strip (1), said strip having a sensor (5) associated to it. Persson et al. teach all the elements of the claims, except the use of a target within the strip, i.e., Persson et al. teach using the inside of the roll as a reference point, target, to measure the position/wear of the strip. However, using a point of reference within the strip to measure the position of said strip is within the levels of one of ordinary skill in the art, absent a showing of unexpected results. Note that Persson et al. suggested that the target could be the seal strip when they state, column 2, line 65 through column 3, line 8, highlighted by the examiner for applicants' convenience: "[A]ccording to another aspect of the invention, there may instead be used a level indicator as indicator means, preferably of the potentiometer type, which is arranged to measure the position of a fixed point at or in the seal strip. Thereby, the level indicator continuously shows how the seal strip is displaced upwards as the wearing takes place (the displacement is explained in greater detail in the description of the figure), whereby the displacement and thereby also the value measured by the level indicator may indirectly and continuously give a measure of the remaining allowance." This would indicate to one of ordinary skill in the art the use of the seal strip as a target to

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measure the position of it, the strip, in relation with the internal part of the roll. One of ordinary skill in the art would have reasonable expectation of success if a target is used on the strip to measure the wear of the seal in view of Persson et al. suggestion, above.


Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure in the art of "Seal Strips for Vacuum Devices."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to José A. Fortuna whose telephone number is 571-272-1188. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven P. Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


José A Fortuna
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731

JAF